



Summer Reading Recommendations | 2025

Picture Books

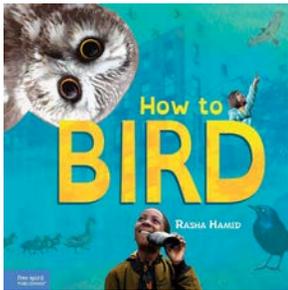
The Wild Robot on the Island by Peter Brown | Perfect for fans of The Wild Robot series and a great way to introduce those who might only be familiar with the movie. This picture book is gorgeously illustrated by author Peter Brown focuses on Roz on the island that turned her wild.

Release date June 24, 2025.



Anything by Rebecca Stead, illustrated by Gracey Zhang | Change can be tough, especially when you're young and don't have control or understanding of why change happens. But what if you could make three wishes, or specifically three "Anythings." Join

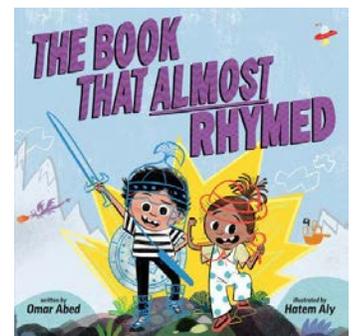
the main character and her dad on a day when she has some wishes come true, and others she keeps inside. This beautiful book will remind folks that sometimes making a wish is a way of showing ourselves we are ready for something new.



How to Bird by Rasha Hamid | A joyful celebration of birds and the diverse young birders who observe them in urban settings and landscapes. From explaining what a birder is to sparking thoughtful questions, this informational text will inspire young birders everywhere.

Here Are the Seeds by JaNay Brown-Wood, illustrated Olivia Amoah | Two young gardeners plant seeds and watch them grow. Throughout the season they learn what nurtures the life cycle of plants and crops in their garden.

The Book That Almost Rhymed by Omar Abed, illustrated Hatem Aly | (Irma Black Award Winner) What can you do with an interrupting younger sibling? Especially when said sibling is stepping all over your story with wild ideas that don't even rhyme?! Who's even heard of a fire breathing armadillo? Dancing pirates? Knights riding rockets? When this older brother realizes his younger sister is improving his tale, he finds out that adventure is more fun when you build it together—rhyme by rhyme.



Beginner Readers

Earl & Worm #2: The Big Mess and Other Stories by Greg Pizzoli | Earl and Worm couldn't be more different—but they also are the best of friends. So when Earl's mess gets out of hand, Worm is sure she can help. And when a lucky penny turns rotten, rain-soaked Earl helps Worm see the sunny side. Through it all, the pair's funny hijinks turn tender ... and the big mess ends up where they least expect it!

Vacation by Ame Dyckman, illustrated by Mark Teague | Three friends – Bat, Cat and Rat – decide they need a vacation. First they need to earn money, and then they need to decide where to go. When they can't agree, Bat comes up with the best solution of all: a “staycation.” A perfect summer read whether you end up on a trip or get inspired to play your own staycation. *2025 Theodor Seuss Geisel Winner*

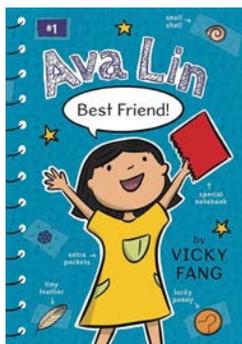


Towed by Toad by Jashar Awan | Toad and his tow truck are always ready to lend a hand to anyone who needs help. But who will help when his tow truck breaks down? Toad is so used to helping others. Can he learn to accept help himself? This playful story is a refreshingly sweet read-aloud for vehicle lovers. *2025 Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book*

Fiction

Early Chapter Books

Tana Cooks to Say Thanks by Stacy Wells | Second grader Tana wants to show appreciation for school workers by gifting them with delicious treats, so she works with classmates to cook up some goodies. Perfect for aspiring bakers and those who like to enjoy delicious treats.



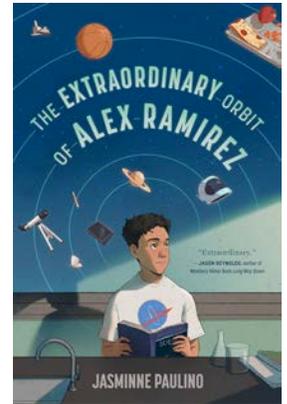
Ava Lin Best Friend by Vicky Fang | Meet Ava who is 6 ½, loves to collect little treasures, and is determined to make a best friend who loves animals as much as she does. This very funny and very sweet story is the first of what is sure to be a fan-favorite series.

Zoomi and Zoe and the Sibling Situation by Corey Ann Haydu | Reunite with purple fuzzy monster Zoomi and her human friend Zoe as they experience big life changes. Zoomi has a new baby sister, and now Zoe's going to be a big sister, too! The sequel in the series has Zoomi and Zoe navigating what it means to be “the best big sisters ever” (by making your little sibling like you, of course!). A solid, heartwarming story that will resonate with anyone who became the big sibling, or those who might be big siblings soon.

Fiction (2-5)

Death by Whoopee Cushion by Vicki Grant | An endless supply of the best Halloween costumes, funniest pranks, and chocolate fudge that looks exactly like dog poo. Most kids would love it if their parents owned a joke shop. But Manya isn't like most kids. Manya is more aspiring scientist than future prankster. But when a whoopee cushion kills an innocent person, the joke is over. It's up to Manya to clear her parents' names using the science behind all those embarrassing pranks!

The Extraordinary Orbit of Alex Ramirez by Jasminne Paulino | A warm-hearted story in verse about a neurodivergent seventh grader who dreams of traveling to the stars one day. Perfect for those who wonder about the space around us, and who are sick of hearing "not yet" for the millionth time.



Rebellion 1776 by Laurie Halse Anderson | In the spring of 1776, thirteen-year-old Elsbeth Culpepper wakes to the sound of cannons. It's the Siege of Boston, the Patriots' massive drive to push the Loyalists out that turns the city into a chaotic war zone. Elsbeth's father—her only living relative—has gone missing, leaving her alone and adrift in a broken town while desperately seeking employment to avoid the orphanage. Anderson is known for her thoroughly researched historical fiction that will grip readers from start to finish.



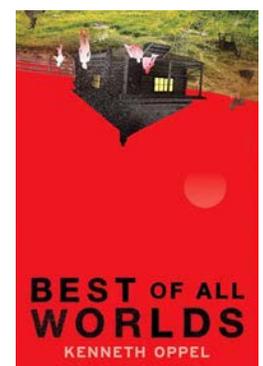
J vs. K by Kwame Alexander and Jerry Craft | Created by real-life rivals Kwame Alexander and Jerry Craft, this hilarious illustrated story focused on two talented fifth graders going head-to-head in a competition for the ages! Perfect for fans of Alexander and Craft. But are you ready to declare whether you are Team J or Team K?

And Then ... BOOM! by Lisa Fipps | The author of *Starfish* was inspired by her own childhood experiences to write about topics like food insecurity and an absent parent in this beautiful, often funny novel in verse. Joe is a savvy and funny narrator laying out the facts of his life, friends and struggles with candor and wisdom. You'll immediately want to be Joe's friend too, and to be there for

him through each BOOM of a life-changing event.

YA Fiction (6-8)

Best of All Worlds by Kenneth Oppel | Get ready for a teen survival thriller like anything you have ever read before. Xavier Oaks doesn't particularly want to go to the cabin with his dad and his dad's pregnant new wife. But family obligations are family obligations, and it's only for a short time. So he leaves his mom, brother and other friends behind for a week in the woods. Only . . . one morning he wakes up and the house isn't where it was before. It's like it's been lifted and placed . . . somewhere else.

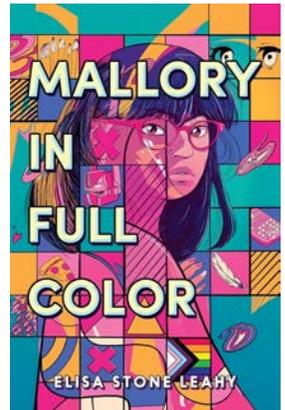


All the Blues in the Sky by Renée Watson | Sage’s thirteenth birthday was supposed to be about movies and treats, staying up late with her best friend and watching the sunrise together. Instead, it was the day her best friend died. Without the person she had to hold her secrets and dream with, Sage is lost. In a counseling group with other girls who have lost someone close to them, she learns that not all losses are the same, and healing isn’t predictable.



Give Me a Sign by Anna Sortino | Lilah uses hearing aids but still struggles with hearing; she’s tired of wishing people understood. Lilah applies for a job at a camp for deaf and blind kids—the one she attended one summer. It’s not easy being a camp counselor, but a crush on coworker Isaac could make it all worth it.

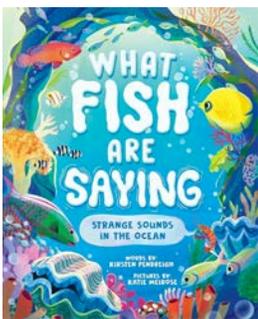
Max in the Land of Lies by Adam Gidwitz | Max Bretzfeld is back in Berlin where his most dangerous mission is about to begin! He is on two missions, one assigned by his British spymasters and the other to find his parents. This thrilling conclusion to the World War II spy duology that began with *Max in the House of Spies*.



Mallory in Full Color by Elisa Stone, illustrated by Maine Diaz | Mallory Marsh is an expert at molding into whatever other people want her to be. Her true thoughts and feelings only come out in her sci-fi webcomic, which she publishes anonymously. But juggling all these versions of herself gets tricky, especially when Mal’s mom signs her up for the swim team.

Nonfiction

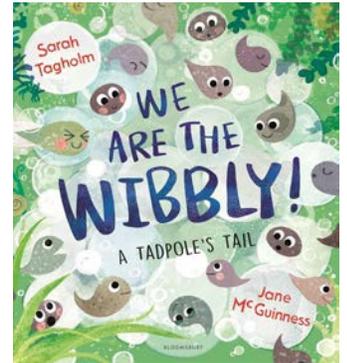
For Everyone



What Fish Are Saying: Strange Sounds in the Ocean by Kirsten Pendreigh, illustrated by Katie Melrose | Calling all under-the-sea scientists! Did you know that deep in the ocean, fish are loud?! Thanks to technology scientists have recently discovered that fish and shellfish will grunt, groan, crackle and cluck, and even burp and boop to communicate. They use these sounds to warn and welcome each other making the ocean noisy! This rhyming tale is sure to inspire those to listen a little closer next time you find yourself in the water.

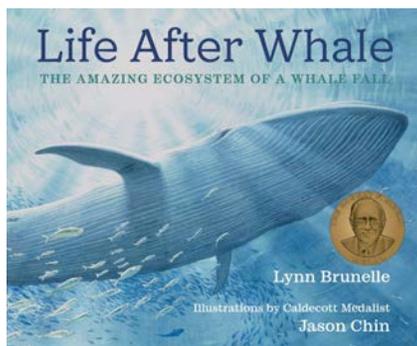
My Pollinator Garden by Jordan Zwetchkenbaum, illustrated by Kate Cosgrove | For those curious about how to help the earth right in your own backyard. This book covers the importance of bees, birds, butterflies, and bats—and the special plants that keep them alive. Perfect for grown-ups looking for books that have background knowledge about the natural world and illustrations that will captivate readers. Part of the *Books for a Better Earth* series.

We Are the Wibbly! by Sarah Tagholm, illustrated by Jane McGuinness | Ever wonder about the life cycle of a frog? What about learning about the life cycle of a frog from a little tadpole itself? This hilarious and heartwarming adventure follows a tadpole on its sometimes-scary, sometimes-fun journey to becoming a frog. The back matter includes a real explanation of the frog life cycle. This book is a perfect tale to guide young readers to embrace new experiences and adapt to the challenges of life!



Henry Ossawa Tanner: His Boyhood Dream Comes True by Faith Ringgold |

This unique picture book biography of the first famous Black artist features a variety of his works and several period photographs. Ringgold, also a distinguished Black artist, added several of her own distinctive paintings in accompaniment of her well-researched text.



Life After Whale: The Amazing Ecosystem of a Whale by Lynn Brunelle, illustrated by Jason Chin | This year's Cook Prize Winner for best STEM picture book for children is sure to captivate those interested in the ocean. This book follows a blue whale's enormous body to the bottom of the ocean, where it sets the stage for a bustling ecosystem to live. Come for the learning and stay for the beautiful illustrations by Caldecott Medalist Jason Chin which only amplifies the engaging and well-researched text. *2025 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal winner*

Middle School Nonfiction

A Greater Goal: The Epic Battle for Equal Pay in Women's Soccer—and Beyond by Elizabeth Rusch |

More than 250 women have played on the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team, and most have contributed to the battle for equal pay. This narrative nonfiction book traces the evolution of that fight, illuminating the work, support, and grit needed to be treated with equality in a world that often undervalues the contributions of women.

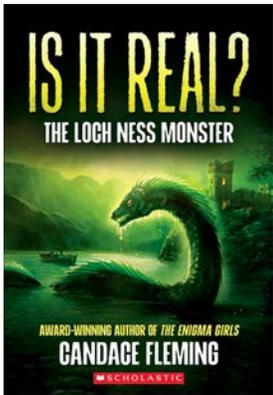


We Sing from the Heart: How The Slants® Took Their Fight for Free Speech to the Supreme Court by Mia Wenjen, illustrated by Victor Bizar Gomez |

At a young age, Simon Tam understood how powerful words can be. He faced racist taunts and verbal bullying—words being used as weapons. When Simon decided to trademark the name of his band “The Slants®” he was denied. What followed is an eight year landmark battle that would take him all the way to the Supreme Court—a fight he fought to reclaim a word that had been used to hurt him. Back matter gives supplemental information including introductions to others who have fought anti-Asian racism.

Earthrise: The Story of the Photograph That Changed the Way We See Our Planet by Leonard S. Marcus | A photograph, taken from lunar orbit by Bill Anders, of the Apollo 8 mission in 1968 changed the way we see our world in many ways like inspiring Earth Day and the environmental movement. But

what was happening in the world when that photo was taken? *Earthrise* was a powerful statement because of the moment when it was taken. This well-researched story will take readers through the journey of Apollo 8 all the way to the moment when the image was captured.



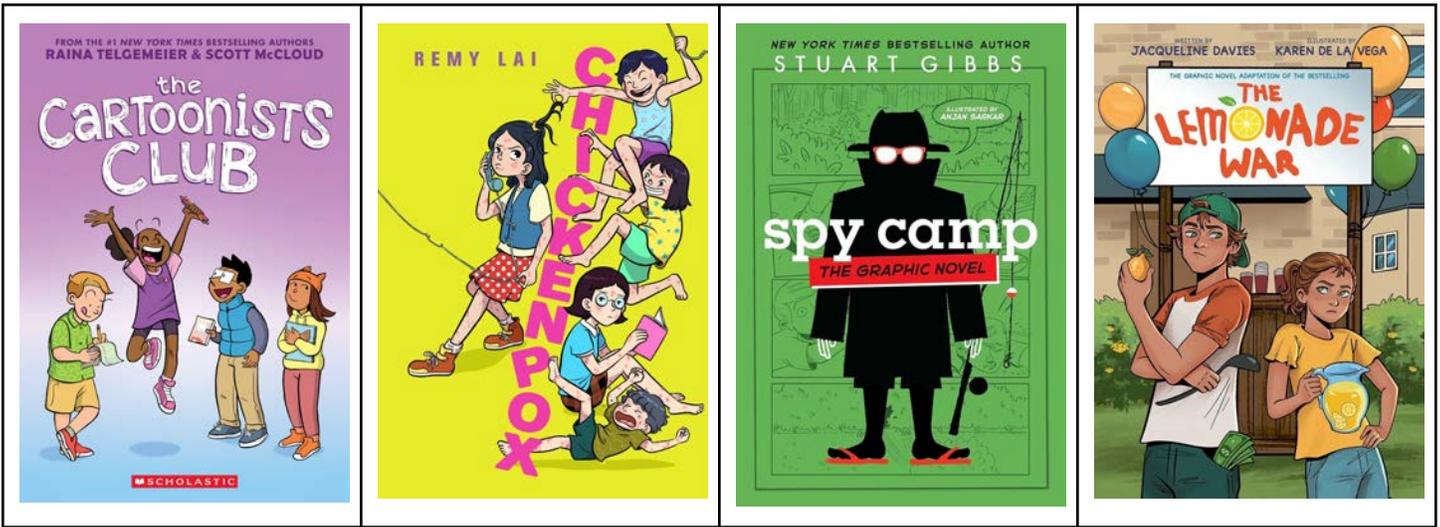
Is It Real? The Loch Ness Monster by Candace Fleming | A prehistoric monster in Loch Ness! People claim to have seen it. Newspapers reported the sightings. But does it really exist? Come for the hunt as part of the “Black Swan Scientific Investigation (BSSI)” your job is to unravel-if you can-the natural world’s greatest mystery. In untangling this mystery, readers will gain essential skills for historical detection, learning the difference between direct and circumstantial evidence and between evidence and proof. What happens when there is plenty of evidence, but no proof? Reader, you decide.

Graphic Novels

Graphic Novels

Click on the book cover for review





YA Graphic Novels (Grades 6-8)

Click on the book cover for review



Additional Resources

MA Children's Book Award | This annual book award was founded in 1975 by Dr. Helen Constant to encourage children in fourth, fifth and sixth grades to read great books. It's a unique Children's Book Award because it is one of the few that is decided completely by children and not adults. Each year a list of book nominees is compiled. The only requirements are the book must be a Children's book geared towards students in fourth, fifth or sixth grade, and the book must be available as a paperback.

[Check out the MCBA 2025-26 Book Nominees](#)

MA Teen Choice Award | This annual award is the only award to invite students in Grade 7 through 12 to select their top new books of the year. Unlike other book awards students are encouraged to read these books over the summer as voting opens on September 15. Check out [the 2025 nominee list](#). Students who are interested in participating should [complete this form](#) to let Ms. Harrison know.

Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) | [2025 Summer Reading lists](#) curated by librarians around the country. Great resources grouped by age and interest.

StoryWalks® in Massachusetts | A unique way to enjoy a story, fresh air and exercise! Just follow the trail and visit laminated pages of a book posted along the route. A wonderful story is just ahead waiting for you. [This resource](#) lists StoryWalks® in Massachusetts. So, get outside and enjoy a story!